

CLAIMS

1 1. An endoscope assembly comprising:
2 a housing,
3 an elongated lens tube having one end secured to said housing, said lens
4 tube adapted for insertion into a cavity of a body,
5 a lens tube assembly contained in said lens tube which optically relays
6 an image from a free end of the lens tube to said housing, said lens tube
7 assembly extending substantially the entire length of said lens tube,
8 a housing lens assembly which receives the image from said lens tube
9 and presents said image exteriorly of said housing,
10 a source of light radiation coupled to said housing,
11 means for directing radiation from said light source through said lens
12 tube assembly.

1 2. The invention as defined in claim 1 and comprising a source of
2 infrared light radiation, wherein said source of light radiation comprises a
3 source of visible light and wherein said directing means further comprises
4 means for selectively directing radiation one of said sources through said lens
5 tube assembly.

1 3. The invention as defined in claim 1 and comprising an infrared
2 camera and wherein said housing lens assembly comprises a confocal lens
3 assembly optically connected in series with said infrared camera.

1 4. The invention as defined in claim 3 wherein said infrared
2 camera comprises a line scanning infrared camera.

1 5. The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said source of
2 radiation comprises a laser.

1 6. The invention as defined in claim 5 wherein said laser is a laser
2 diode.

1 7. The invention as defined in claim 6 wherein said laser has a
2 wavelength of substantially 950 nm.